

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A process for the production of vitamin C comprising converting a substrate into vitamin C in a medium using a microorganism belonging to the genus *Ketogulonicigenium*.
2. (original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of D-sorbitol, L-sorbose, L-sorbose, L-gulose and L-gulonogamma-lactone.
3. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ for the production of vitamin C comprising contacting a microorganism belonging to the genus *Ketogulonicigenium* with the substrate in a reaction mixture and isolating and purifying vitamin C from the reaction mixture.
4. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 for the production of vitamin C from L-sorbose which comprises contacting a microorganism belonging to the genus *Ketogulonicigenium* with L-sorbose in a reaction mixture and isolating and purifying vitamin C from the reaction mixture.
5. (currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the microorganism is selected from *Ketogulonicigenium robustum*, *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare*, or mutants thereof.
6. (currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Ketogulonicigenium robustum* NRRL B-21627, *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare* NRRL B-30035, *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare* NRRL B-30036 and *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare* NRRL B-30037.

7. (currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 7, wherein the process is carried out at a pH of about 4.0 to about 9.0 and at a temperature of about 13 to about 36°C.

8. (currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the process is carried out at a pH of about 5.0 to about 8.0 and at a temperature of about 18 to about 33°C.

9. (currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the process is carried out at a L-sorbose concentration of about 2 to about 120 mg/ml.

10. (original) The process according to claim 9, wherein the process is carried out at a L-sorbose concentration of about 4 to about 100 mg/ml.